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TICOM/I-131

OBSTLT. METTIG OF OKW/Chi on WA PRUEF 7 AND

RLM/FORSCHUNGSAMT

Attached are two short memoranda obtained from
Oberstlt. METTIG at C.S.D.I.C. (U.K.) on the activities of
(a) Wa Pruef 7 and (b) the Forschungsamt.

TICOM

4th October, 1945.

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A.

SPECIAL INTERCEPT ACTIVITIES CARRIED ONBY WA PRÜF 71. GENERAL ORG. WA PRÜF 7.

PW cannot give an accurate picture of the inter-departmental organisation of Wa Prüf 7. The department itself was responsible for the technical development of signals equipment and special signals apparatus for the army; it carried out this work in conjunction with special industrial firms. Wa Prüf 7 worked in conjunction with similar departments of the Navy, Air Force and SS. The technical side of signals production and of the allocation of raw materials etc was centrally directed by OKW/Ag WNV/GBN (Obst GRÜBE and Stabaf SCBE). Wa Prüf 7, as far as PW remembers, consisted of the following sections:-

- 7/I Policy and organisation
- 7/II Line communications
- 7/III Secret teleprinters and cipher machines.
- 7/IV WT
- 7/V Speech encipherment.

2. EXPERIMENTAL STATION AT STAATS

For carrying out special experiments in signals equipment, Wa Prüf 7 disposed of its own station at STAATS. The main activity carried out here was in the development of intercept equipment. The department was already active before the war.

3. The principal activities carried out at STAATS were directed by Baurat Dipl Ing KERKHOF, who specialised in WT reception and DF-ing; Baurat Dipl Ing Dr LOTZE, who specialised in speech encipherment; Baurat Dipl Ing Dr LIEBKNECHT, who specialised in secret teleprinters, WT teleprinting and cipher machines; Baurat Dipl Ing Dr SCHELLHOS, who specialised in Multiplex and Baudot. The work carried out by KERKHOF, LOTZE and LIEBKNECHT, in so far as PW is in the picture, has already been described in TICOM/I-78 and in a forthcoming report on OKW/Chi. The following information on the activities of Dr SCHELLHOS with which Dr LOTZE was also concerned in the early stages may, however, be of interest.

4. Experiments were already in progress in 1937, with the object of intercepting Baudot and Multiplex traffic. The experiments concentrated on intercepting Russian multi-channel WT teleprinter traffic (of 8 or 15 channels). The traffic intercepted was transmitted in clear and only enciphered technically, i.e. by scrambling various channels together. With the separation of the channels the traffic was picked up in clear.

5. In 1938 Wa Prüf 7 organised a lecture for heads of army intercept coys in which developments in this special field were discussed. The equipment shown was very delicate and had not yet reached its final stage of development. However, progress was so advanced that the army intercept coys were ordered to watch all special traffic they picked up, to record it on magnetophones and to forward the results to Wa Prüf 7 for analysis. In order to assist the army intercept coys in recognising special transmissions, acoustic tone films were issued. From that time onwards Wa Prüf 7 became very secretive and although it received traffic from the army intercept coys, it never reported what progress had been achieved. PW knows, however, that considerable successes were achieved during the war, especially against RUSSIA, and that before the war the Baudot link PARIS/MOSCOW had been satisfactorily intercepted. PW has the impression that the work at STAATS was highly successful because in 1941, despite the manpower shortage, the establishment was increased.

6. PERSONALITIES

Genlt. GIMMLER	Head of Wa Prüf 7 at the outbreak of war.
Obst. Dipl. Ing. KARN	Successor to Genlt. GIMMLER, captured in TUNIS.
Obst. HENIGST	Successor to Obst KARN and in charge of the department until the end of the war.
Obstlt. PÄCHTER	In charge of Wa Prüf 7/IV, which controlled the wireless department.

B.

F O R S C H U N G S A M T

1. GENERAL

The Forschungsamt was a part of the Reichsluftfahrtministerium and was directly subordinated to Staatssekretär KÖRNER and, through him, to Reichsmarschall GÖRING. The head of this department was Ministerialdirigent TSCHAPPER who, prior to the establishment of the Forschungsamt, had worked in OKW Chi and served under Ministerialrat FENNER. Another former official of OKW in the Forschungsamt was Regierungsrat SEIFERT.

2. Collaboration between the Forschungsamt and OKW Chi was poor. This may well have been due to the personal differences between Ministerialrat FENNER and his former subordinate TSCHAPPER. PW is not in a position to state who represented the Forschungsamt in the special cipher committee of Regierungsrat Dr HÜTTENHAIN. The attempt of the Forschungsamt to take over all the broadcasts and news agency monitoring work carried on by OKW Chi illustrates the relations between the two departments. PW is not in the picture on the relations of the Forschungsamt and other departments save that he is aware that there was no collaboration at any time between Gen d. Nachr. Aufkl. and the Forschungsamt. Likewise it is not known whether the Forschungsamt produced special ciphers for the use of government departments over and above those produced by OKW Chi.

3. PERSONALITIES

Ministerialdirigent TSCHAPPER	- Amtschef Forschungsamt
Oberregierungsrat HUPPERTSBERG	- Technical adviser for cable and wireless matters.
"	"
ODEN	- Technical adviser for cables
"	"
SEIFERT.	